Claims

A WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vasculoprotective composition comprising an ERβ ligand.

2. A vasculoprotective composition according to claim 1 wherein the ERβ ligand is an ERβ agonist.

3. A vasculoprotective composition according to claim 1 wherein the ERβ ligand is an ERβ antagonist

4. A vasculoprotective composition according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ comprising an ERβ-selective agonist.

5. A pharmaceutical composition useful for the treatment of vasculopathies comprising an ERβ agonist.

6. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 comprising an ERβ-selective agonist.

7. A composition according to claim 4 ~~or 6~~ in which the binding affinity of the ERβ agonist to ERβ is at least 10 times greater than the binding affinity to ERα.

8. A composition according to claim 7 in which the binding affinity of the agonist to ERβ is at least 20 times greater than to ERα.

9. The use of an ERβ agonist in the treatment of vasculopathies.

10. The use of an ERβ-selective agonist in the treatment of vasculopathies.

11. The use according to claim 10 in which the vasculopathy is a fibroproliferative condition.

12. The use according to claim 11 in which the fibroproliferative vasculopathy is selected from restenosis, angioplasty, chronic allograft rejection, diabetic angiopathy, autoimmune angiopathy, arteriosclerosis, and atherosclerosis.

13. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect in a subject, the method comprising treating the subject with an ERβ agonist.

14. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect according to claim 13 in which the ERβ agonist has a higher affinity for ERβ than ERα.

15. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect in a subject according to claim 14 in which the binding affinity of the agonist to ERβ is at least 10 times greater than to ERα.

16. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect in a subject according to claim 15 in which the binding affinity of the agonist to ERβ is at least 20 times greater than to ERα.

17. A method of inducing a vasculoprotective effect in which the effect is decrease of intimal thickness.

A

18. A method according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 17~~ claim 13 in which the vasculoprotective effect is induced to treat a fibroproliferative vasculopathy.

19. A method according to claim 18 in which the fibroproliferative vasculopathy is selected from restenosis, angioplasty, chronic allograft rejection, diabetic angiopathy, autoimmune angiopathy, ateriosclerosis and atherosclerosis.

A

20. A composition, use or method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 in which the ERβ selective agonist is genistein or a chemical derivative or structural analogue thereof.

A

21. A use or method according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 20~~ claim 9 in which uterotrophic effects are minimised or do not result.

A

22. A method according to claim 13 ~~any one of claims 13 to 21~~ in which the subject is a mammal.

23. A method according to claim 22 in which the mammal is a primate.

24. A method according to claim 23 in which the mammal is human.

25. A method according to claim 22, ~~23 or 24~~ in which the mammal is female.

26. A method according to claim 25 in which the female is post-menopausal.

27. A method of producing artificial tissues or organs the method including the step of treating the tissue or organ with an ERβ agonist.

28. A method according to claim 27 in which the tissue or organ is a blood vessel.

29. Articificial tissues or organs obtainable by a method according to claim 27 ~~or 28.~~